661 kept in operation through private donations. Belorussian students
553 could not enter the higher schools. The national social organization "Belorusskaia Gramada," which had 120,000 members, was closed and its leaders tried and imprisoned. The Orthodox clergy had to use Polish to preach in the churches and to teach the Law of God in the schools. The population of western Belorussia knew that in the B. S. S. R. a state was being built, that /17/ the official language was Belorussian, that a Belorussian Academy of Sciences, a State University, and other institutions of higher learning were in existence and that admission to them did not present any particular difficulties--on the contrary there were the so-called workers' high schools which prepared those who lacked secondary education for admission into the universities. National theaters were in operation, and literature
661 and poetry flourished. The Soviet press, which penetrated into western
166 Belorussia, as well as the radio and underground Communist organizations intensified their propaganda about the work in the B. S. S. R.. The Soviet Consulate in Warsaw, by using the Deputy Consul Ul'ianov who was himself from a Minsk family, generously supplied dollars to finance anti-Polish propaganda, the pro-Communist press, and various organizations in western Belorussia. As a result of this, hundreds of young people streamed across the border into the B. S. S. R., illegally and at great risk and danger to themselves, in the hopes of getting into the bright lecture halls of the University of Belorussia. The intelligentsia also crossed the border to find work and to find some scope for their abilities. How much bitter disillusionment there was after 1930, how much inconsolable grief and sorrow for their unfulfilled hopes and broken young lives. Led by their enthusiasm, they trustingly dashed into the perfidious and deceiving Soviet flame. Who could have supposed then that this great constructive work would be pitilessly crushed and that thousands of Belorussians would perish in the cellars of the N. K. V. D. or in concentration camps.

First Secretaries of the Central Committee of the Community Party of Belorussia

665 Up to 1930 there were several first secretaries of the Communist Party of Belorussia. All of them were envoys of the Kremlin, in fact plenipotentiaries of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union--guardians, preservers and exponents of the general line of the